



group working to protect the butterflies. The park system also uses a children's menu that illustrates the life cycle of Monarch butterflies, designed by the Garden Club of Kentucky.

"We're very proud at Kentucky State Parks to be part of this initiative to educate people about these special insects," Parks Commissioner Elaine Walker said. "This shows that we all can make a difference and do something to preserve a part of our natural world."

Ten other parks are in the process of getting certified or have planted milkweed plants. The waystations are places where milkweeds are planted to provide food and a place for Monarchs to lay their eggs.

Lincoln Homestead State Park near Springfield reduced mowing and the use of chemicals to allow a 10,000-square-foot section area to grow milkweed over the last two years. Monarchs have been seen on the area.

Both the Landscape Branch and the state park system have been working on the Monarch project with the Garden Club of Kentucky.

"We began working with state parks in 2013 and many of them expressed interest in the waystation project," said Joanna Kirby, who served as president of the Garden Club of Kentucky from 2013-2015. "The parks have been a great way to spread the word about this program and help us explain why it's important."

Kirby also expressed her delight with the waystation at the Governor's Mansion as it provides another wonderful opportunity for students from across the Commonwealth to learn about the plight of Monarch Butterflies and how they can create their own waystation at their school or home.

Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed September as "Monarch Butterfly Awareness Month" for Kentucky. Three parks have special events planned in September related to Monarch butterflies.

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park in Prestonsburg is hosting a "Butterfly and Native Plant Weekend" Sept. 25-27 that will feature seminars, workshops, field trips and Monarch tagging. A two-night lodging package that includes meals and program registration is available for \$250 a person. Registration for the program is \$30 a person. Call 1-800-325-0142 for reservations and information.

John James Audubon State Park in Henderson will present its "Monarch Butterfly Migration Mysteries" program on Sept. 12 and 19. Guests will learn about Monarch migration and then go out and tag Monarchs to study where they travel. The cost is \$5 a person or

FAC Spotlight: Monarch Butterfly Waystations at State Parks & Governor's Mansion

*Governor declared September as
Monarch Butterfly Awareness Month*

Thanks to the hard work of the Landscape Branch a new monarch waystation at the Governor's Mansion will be dedicated on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 2 p.m.

According to Tim Depenbrock, landscape consultant with the Landscape Branch, Monarch Waystations is a movement across the North American continent.

"They are gardens installed by ordinary home gardeners, home associations, large corporations, and anyone who wants to help stem the very steep decline in Monarch populations."

The gardens preserve and develop new habitat that will support Monarch Butterflies (and other butterflies and pollinators) on their migration from Mexico to North America in spring, and back to Mexico in summer and fall. Monarchs are the only known butterfly to migrate in such a way as birds do.

More than a dozen Kentucky State Parks also are working on projects to help Monarch butterflies by preserving habitat and planting milkweed plants the butterflies need for survival. The butterflies – easily identified because of their orange and black colors – have been declining in population causing concern among scientists.

Five state parks – Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Waveland State Historic Site, Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site and John James Audubon State Park – are certified Monarch "waystations" through Monarch Watch, a



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Deniese Pyles Celebrates 40 Years in State Government

On Aug. 16, Deniese Pyles will celebrate 40 years in state government. This is truly a milestone and many friends and colleagues have recognized her tenure and contributions to a job well done.

For Ed Ross, controller for the Commonwealth, he thanked her for her many years of outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"Many of us in the Finance Cabinet have relied on your counsel, advice, and guidance for more years than we care to remember," he said. "You have always responded promptly, thoroughly and thoughtfully to each and every request. I extend my utmost respect and admiration for your many years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth."



Self-proclaimed 'Queen of the office,' Deniese has seen a lot of changes over her 40 years in state government. Most of her work has been focused on personnel.

She's experienced the old personnel and payroll system—UPPS or CICS—that was implemented in the early '80s, which was replaced in 2011 by the Kentucky Human Resource Information System (KHRIS).

For years she's handled the non-merit employees for the entire Finance Cabinet along with the Governor's Office and approximately 12 agencies attached to the Governor's Office. In that capacity, she has also completed the personnel actions/paperwork to bring on governors through the years.

If you have a chance, stop by and congratulate Deniese. You'll even be able to see the many trinkets people have given her as Queen of the Office, including a crown, ceptor, and other items.

\$15 for a family. Programs start at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. Call 270-826-2247.

Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hosting its Caterpillar Weekend Sept. 11-12. There will be walks and presentations both days, plenty of photographic opportunities, and programs for kids. The fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youths 17 and under. Call the park at 606-663-2214 for more information.

For more information about the Monarch waystations, visit www.monarchwatch.org



Don't forget to register for the KECC Golf Scramble on Aug. 21!!!

[Click here](#) for details.



PERSONNEL NEWS

Congratulations to John Barnes and Kari Welch who were recently appointed Information Systems Managers in COT's Office of Application Development (OAD).

John Barnes is now Information Systems Manager of the Quality Services Branch within OAD's Division of Support Services. He is a native of Frankfort and a graduate of the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Computer Studies. He spent over 14 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Russian linguist, intelligence analyst, research and development analyst, technical writer and editor, and manager of a Strategic Forces research branch. He spent most of his Air Force career overseas with assignments in England, Germany, and Japan, with stateside assignments as well. Since 1998 he has worked for the Commonwealth, first as a Network Analyst and Desktop Support for the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (later EECPPC), and later as a supervisor with the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and then the Department for Natural Resources. John has worked in COT as Team Lead for the Security Operations Branch since 2012. He lives in Frankfort with his wife of 27 years, Barbara, and they have a 23-year-old daughter, Emmaleigh.

Kari Welch is Information Systems Manager of OAD's Data Intelligence Branch. She is a graduate of the Louisville Technical Institute with a degree in Computer Engineering Technology. Before joining state government in 2005, she worked in the private sector before joining the Franklin County Board of Education as a LAN Technician in 2001. She has worked in the Education Cabinet, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Personnel Cabinet before joining COT in 2012. She has experience in server administration, network administration, supported numerous applications such as Exchange, SharePoint, and Blackboard, has served on several statewide technology committees and has assisted in writing RFPs for IT services. Kari's most recent role in COT was the technical project lead on the Enterprise Service Team for COT's SharePoint 2013 upgrade and migration. Kari has obtained certification as a Certified Public Manager. She lives in Frankfort and is the proud mother of two children.